

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /031 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 6293

S E C R E T USNATO 3340

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: ATLANTIC DECLARATION: PARAGRAPH 11

REF: (A) USNATO 3327; (B) STATE 125558

1. MISSION HAS CONVEYED TO ALL KEY DELEGATIONS AND TO IS U.S. POSITION REGARDING SECOND SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 11 AS WE WERE INSTRUCTED IN REFTEL B. FRENCH ARE STILL AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARIS ON THE BASIS OF DE STAERCKE PROPOSAL DESCRIBED IN PARA 3, REFTEL A. AT LAST REPORT, FRENCH DEL WAS TRYING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH SAUVAGNARGUES BUT HAD NOT YET SUCCEEDED IN CONTACTING HIM. ALLIED POSITIONS GENERALLY ARE THAT THERE IS NO GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE POSITIONS RE SECOND SENTENCE, PARAGRAPH 11, AND THAT OVERRIDING INTERESTS OF REACHING AGREEMENT BEFORE OTTAWA DICTATES, FOR INDIVIDUAL ALLIES, THAT THEY CAN ACCEPT WHATEVER CONSENSUS EMERGES.

2. MISSION HAS URGED ALLIES TO PRESS FRENCH TO TAKE ANOTHER STEP TO MEET U.S. VIEW IN LIGHT OF NUMEROUS COMPROMISES U.S. HAS ALREADY MADE. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT DE STAERCKE FOR ONE WILL DO THIS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ASSISTANT SYG KASTL HAS PRESSED FRENCH TO ACCEPT U.S. PREFERRED SENTENCE IN VIEW OF VERY SIMILAR LANGUAGE TO WHICH FRENCH SUBSCRIBED IN PARA 4 OF NAC MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE OF DECEMBER 11, 1973. FRENCH DEL REPORTEDLY SAID THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THEM IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH PARIS.

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3. THERE IS A CHANCE THAT FRENCH COULD ACCEPT DE STAERCKE FORMULA AT NAC SCHEDULED FOR 6:00 P.M. BRUSSELS TIME TODAY AND, IF THEY DO, I WOULD APPRECIATE AUTHORITY TO ALSO ACCEPT THAT FORMULA OR SOMETHING VERY CLOSE TO IT.

MAINTAINING BRACKETTED DISAGREEMENTS IN THE TEXT UP TO THE TIME OF THE MINISTERIAL COULD WELL CREATE PRESS BUILD UP OF US-FRENCH DIFFERENCES BUT ALSO POSSIBLE UNRAVELLING BY VARIOUS ALLIED FOREIGN MINISTERS OF OTHER COMPROMISES IN DECLARATION. LOGAN (U.K.) IN PARTICULAR HAS SAID THAT ONE OF CALLAGHAN'S REASONS FOR ACCEPTING THE PARAGRAPH 9 COMPROMISE WAS HIS CONVICTION THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR ALLIES TO GO TO OTTAWA WITH A CLEAN TEXT. NORWEGIANS HAVE ALREADY POINTED TO ANOMALY OF THEIR RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTING PARAGRAPH 6 COMPROMISE ON NUCLEAR FORCES WHILE OTHER DISAGREEMENTS OF APPARENTLY LESSER IMPORTANCE ARE MAINTAINED IN BRACKETS.

4. MISSION AGREES FULLY WITH WHAT WE PRESUME TO BE INTENT OF WASHINGTON GUIDANCE IN REFTTEL B, NAMELY TO GET FRENCH FINALLY TO ACCEPT A TEXT WHICH U.S. COULD ALSO AGREE TO, THUS AVOIDING PIECEMEAL CONCESSIONS TO FRENCH POSITION. HOWEVER, IF FRENCH CAN ACCEPT THE DE STAERCKE FORMULA OR SOMETHING VERY CLOSE TO IT, MISSION FEELS U.S. INTERESTS WOULD BE BEST SERVED BY CLOSING THE DEAL TODAY AND, ON THAT BASIS, MISSION REQUESTS INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO 6:00 P.M. COUNCIL MEETING.
RUMSFELD

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